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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, SA

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF SAG - MONTANA AGRICULTURAL
AGREEMENT

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS CARRIED STORY ON OCTOBER 13 TO EFFECT
THAT MONTANA STATE OFFICIALS SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH
SAG DURING VISIT OF HASSAN MISHARI TO QUOTE TRADE PETRO-
DOLLARS FOR AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY UNQUOTE IN WHAT IS
BILLED AS FIRST SUCH AGREEMENT EVER SIGNED BETWEEN A
STATE AND A NATION. ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT
MONTANANS WILL SET UP AND STAFF TWO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
STATIONS IN NOVEMBER, THAT WHEAT AND LIVESTOCK MARKETING
SPECIALISTS WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA IN NOVEMBER, THAT
MONTANANS WILL ADVISE SAG ON WAYS OF BRINGING COMMUNITY
SERVICES TO AGRICULTURAL QUOTE COMMUNES UNQUOTE, AND THAT
AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM WILL BE SET UP BETWEEN SAUDI GRADUATE
STUDENTS AND AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS FROM MONTANA STATE
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UNIVERSITY AT BOZEMAN.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH MONTANA OFFICIALS REVEAL THAT PRESS REPORTS ARE EXAGGERATED AND TEND TO ANTICIPATE POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION. SEPTEMBER 6 COMMUNIQUE (COPY BEING POUCHED) SIGNED BY MISHARI AND GOVERNOR THOMAS

L. JUDGE DID AGREE THAT A UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM WOULD VISIT SAUDI ARABIA, THAT FURTHER TALKS ON TRADE OPPORTUNITIES WOULD TAKE PLACE, AND THAT QUOTE THE STATE OF MONTANA ACCEPTS WITH GRATITUDE THE INVITATION OF THE MINISTRY (SIC) OF AGRICULTURE FOR A VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA UNQUOTE.

3. ALTHOUGH FIRST REACTION MIGHT BE THAT INVITATION TO GOVERNOR JUDGE WILL DIE QUIET DEATH AS RESULT OF MISHARI'S REPLACEMENT, MONTANA OFFICIALS ARE IN VERY CLOSE CONTACT WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND SEEM TO THINK VISIT WILL STILL TAKE PLACE. THEY WILL PROBABLY ASK MUHAMMAD SAADI'S JUDGMENT AS TO TIMING. INGERSOLL

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